Message Text

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TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3501

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3725

FOR MANUEL D. PLOTKIN, ACTING DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF CENSUS

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: SPOP, SY

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR SYRIAN CENSUS DATA

REF: YOUR LETTER TO DIRECTOR, SYRIAN CENTRAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

- 1. EMBASSY COMOFF TODAY CALLED UPON FARID BOUSTANI, D/G SYRIAN CENTRAY BUREAU OF STATISTICS. BOUSTANI DID NOT RPT NOT RECEIVE YOUR LETTER (UNDATED) REQUESTING FERTILITY AND MORTALITY DATA TO BE USED IN PREPARATION OF COUNTRY PROFILE FOR SYRIA. COMOFF GAVE BOUSTANI HIS COPY OF YOUR LETTER; BOUSTANI SAID HE WOULD SEND DATA ASAP, ALTHOUGH HE CAUTIONED SOME OF THE DATA ARE AVAILABLE ONLY IN ARABIC (WE ASSUME BUREAU HAS TRANSLATION FACILITIES).
- 2. SINCE BOUSTANI DID NOT RECEIVE YOUR LETTER, HE DID NOT RECEIVE ENCLOSURES. PLEASE SEND BY POUCH TO EMBASSY SHEET AND LIST OF SOURCES FOR YOUR "WORLD POPULATION: 1975" PUBLICATION, AND COPY OF "1976 BUREAU OF THE CENSUS CATALOGUE"; EMBASSY WILL FORWARD THEM TO CENSUS BUREAU.
- 3. BOUSTANI (PHD. UNIV. PARIS, ALSO TRAINED AT LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, FORMERLY WORKED FOR OECD) HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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IMPRESSED EMBASSY AS THOROUGHLY COMPETENT PROFESSIONAL, WELL-DISPOSED TOWARDS AMERICANS, AND VERY HELPFUL IN ASSISTING EMBASSY IN OBTAINING DATA NEEDED FOR ECONOMIC REPORTS. HE HAS NEVER BEEN TO THE US, AND WOULD LIKE TO VISIT US CENSUS BUREAU, MEET HIS COUNTERPARTS, AND SEE FIRST HAND US CENSUS METHODS. DOES CENSUS BUREAU HAVE A PROGRAM WHEREBY DIRECTORS OF FOREIGN CENSUS AGENCIES MAY

BE OFFICIALLY INVITED TO WASHINGTON? IF SO, WE WOULD LIKE RECOMMEND SENDING SUCH AN INVITATION TO BOUSTANI. PELLETREAU

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